

# CARTSNEWS

*The Official Journal of the Carolina Token Society*

ISSUE #41

February 2014

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings to all CARTS members,

The Arctic blast has finally dissipated now in South Carolina, and things have thawed out. And I hope that token collecting can heat up again soon, as I haven't added anything to my collection since well before Christmas. (I must have been a very bad boy last year, as Santa did not leave any token goodies in my stocking!)

But getting down to society business, I have just received a membership report from Treasurer Bob King and as of today (Jan. 14, 2014) we have only 13 members that have paid their dues for the present year. We desperately need as many members as we can get, so that CARTS will remain viable. If you haven't paid your dues for 2014, please do so immediately. You can send them to Bob King, his address appears below.

Also, **please mark your calendars for our Spring meeting. It will be held on May 17 in Clemmons, NC., 8:30 AM to noon.** CARTS member Lamar Bland is making all the arrangements and directions are in the column opposite.

Happy Collecting,  
Tony Chibbaro  
CARTS President

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

First, the November meeting in Hendersonville was a successful one. While one or two of the "regulars" were missing, there were 7 members present plus one visitor who joined on the spot. Also three spouses attended.

As of the meeting date, treasurer Bob King reported \$555.75 on hand. And, the auction brought in \$66, an amount that almost covered the cost of the meeting room.

Now, the May 17 meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Express, 6320 Amp Drive in Clemmons, NC. This is on Interstate 40 just west of Winston-Salem. Old time members will recall we have met there twice. Take exit 184 and turn left if you come from the west, right if you come from the east. Then, almost immediately, turn right on Amp Drive between "I Bambini" and the Mobile Station.

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Comments, suggestions, reactions, (maybe even) criticism, will be gratefully accepted. Let us know!  
**Articles, New Finds, Announcements, and Classifieds to Don Bailey only! Dues to Bob King only!**

# The Ayden Lumber Company

Don Bailey

It seems that the past few months have been good ones for lumber tokens. As reported in the previous issue of CARTSNEWS, a sizable number of previously unknown lumber tokens from Judson, NC surfaced in August 2013. Recently I was able to buy an unlisted token from the Hall Lumber Company of Huntsville, Texas. And in December I was lucky enough to obtain the token shown below.



The Ayden Lumber Co. / Ayden, / N. C. / (star) // Good For / 25 / One Load of Wood – R, Al, 33mm.

This token is apparently a genuine new find. It does not appear in Trantow's *Catalogue of Lumber Store Tokens* and it was unknown to CARTS own NC cataloger and researcher, Bob King.

Ayden is located in Pitt County, about 10 miles south of Greenville, NC. And the town of Ayden and the Ayden Lumber Company came into existence almost simultaneously. According to Powell's *North Carolina Gazetteer* Ayden was incorporated in 1891. (Strangely, the town name was changed to Harrison in 1895, and then changed back to Ayden in 1899.) The Ayden Lumber Company existed at least as early as 1896, for there is a Pitt County deed in that year showing The Ayden Lumber Company as Grantee.

The Ayden Lumber Company appears in Dun and/or Bradstreet listings from 1900 through

1917—except it is not listed in 1912 or 1913. Apparently the company did close down for a time. As evidence, we have the listings gap just mentioned; there are no deeds recorded in Pitt County showing Ayden Lumber as Grantee between 1910 and 1916; and in 1913 the Greenville, NC *Eastern Reflector* contains several mentions of the lumber company **resuming** operation

Most likely the company did cease to exist after 1917. In addition to the lack of listings after that date, there is no evidence that the company purchased any timber land after 1916.

Now even though our token had remained unknown for some time, the Ayden Lumber Company was no small operation. The *Eastern Reflector* of May 20, 1904 asserts that "The Ayden Lumber Company is one of, if not the, largest in Eastern North Carolina." And it is hard to understand the hiatus in 1912-13, for the September 22, 1911 *Reflector* says, "The Ayden Lumber Co. shipped two cars of their seasoned red gum lumber to London, England, last week. They do a considerable lumber business in South Africa, having shipped several cars there." This seems to indicate a thriving business. Furthermore, after the temporary shut-down business must have continued strong, for on February 6, 1914 the *Reflector* reported, "...The Ayden Lumber Company being short of labor have imported from Italy fifteen through bred Italians to work in the woods."

So, for about 20 years The Ayden Lumber Company was an economic force in eastern North Carolina. And it may be that there are more (perhaps even many more) Ayden Lumber Company tokens waiting out there to be found.

I am grateful, as always, to Bob King for his assistance. Also John Lawrence, librarian for the North Carolina Collection at the Joyner Library, East Carolina University, provided invaluable assistance and information

## North Carolina Collector

Buyer of NC Singles or Collections  
Trader list for all state tokens  
Enthusiastic researcher  
Robert S. King, 709 Cardinal Dr.  
Brevard, NC 28712  
828-883-8028 [tokenadict@citcom.net](mailto:tokenadict@citcom.net)

Want to buy southern states tokens. You price or I will make an offer, your, choice. I don't make flea market offers. Pay top dollar for tokens I need and top wholesale for tokens I have.

I want mavericks and one is fine. Give me a chance, we will make a deal.

**Active buyer of R. G. Dun and Bradstreet**  
1963 & newer  
Need 1882, 1884 & 1897  
Need a complete national book for 1910, 1911 or 1912.

## Spartanburg Saloon Token Surfaces Nearly 40 Years Later

**Tony Chibbaro**

A very elusive saloon token from the city of Spartanburg recently surfaced on eBay. Offered for sale by Floridian Bob Slawsky in December was a token for which I have been searching for many, many years. I first became aware of the existence of this token over 25 years ago while doing research for the book I was writing on South Carolina tokens. Back in the mid-1980s I purchased three large boxes of old token literature. I methodically went through each one of the dozens of auction catalogs, club newsletters, and mail bid sales, accumulating information on all of the South Carolina tokens mentioned. I learned a heck of a lot about tokens, as that

was about the only information readily available besides the few state catalogs which had been published up to that point in time. In an old auction catalog dated February 28, 1975 from a company called *Rockaway Tokens* appeared the following: *S.C., Spartanburg – Husemann & Co. – Good For 5 CTS. In Trade – round – brass – uniface – incuse.*



**The Husemann & Co. token as it appeared on eBay in December**

As can be seen from the token pictured above, that is a fairly accurate description as far as it goes, but not quite exact enough for a line-by-line entry in a state reference catalog. Therefore, in my book *South Carolina Tokens*, I provided only a rudimentary description of the token. But now, with the eBay specimen in hand, I can describe it more accurately and note that its diameter is 32mm (information which did not appear in the 1975 auction). Also, in my 1990 book, I noted that J.W. Husemann operated a soda parlor in Spartanburg in 1912. Without actually seeing the token back then I had no way of noting the early style. But now that I had the token in hand, I could tell that the time period of the issuance of the token was much earlier than 1912. Due diligence on researching the history of the firm revealed the following.

Husemann & Co. was listed in Spartanburg for only one year in the standard mercantile directories. In 1883, the firm was shown as running a saloon. Further research revealed that John R. Husemann was the principal operator. Husemann was the brother of J.W. Husemann, who was mentioned in my book as the owner of the 1912 soda parlor. His elder brother John, sometimes listed as Janalin or

Ignatius, was born in Prussia circa 1855. Census records show his immigration to the United States in 1875. In the 1880, 1900, and 1910 censuses, J.R. (or I.R.) Husemann is identified as living in Spartanburg. In 1880, his occupation is that of bar room clerk. In 1900, he is listed as a beer dispenser. And finally, in 1910, one year before his death, he is shown simply as a retail merchant. Interestingly, I also found listings in city directories for him in 1895 in Denver, Colorado, and in 1899 in Charlotte, North Carolina. He was employed as a bartender in both of those cities. I suspect that he temporarily moved away from Spartanburg after the passage of the 1893 state dispensary law, which outlawed saloons within the state.

One other interesting aside about this token is that the eBay seller – Bob Slawsky – was the owner of *Rockaway Tokens* back in 1975. In an email to him after I won the token, I inquired whether he had sold the token back then, or whether he failed to sell it and kept it for all these years. He wrote back and related that he did, in fact, sell the token in 1975, but purchased it back from the buyer a few years later and had held it in his collection of incuse trade tokens for many years before deciding to dispense with that collection on eBay this year. Many thanks, Bob, for making this neat token available again!

## THE OLDEST MILL TOKEN FROM NORTH CAROLINA ?

Bob King

While looking through the December Issue of *Talkin Tokens* I saw a token in the new maverick listing that I had been looking for since the late 1980s. The token was Mountain Island Mills, a 1 cent all incuse and uniface token. I immediately started a search for contact information for the owner. The owner was a long time token collector that had submitted several mavericks. I made him an

offer and he delivered the token to me at the Florida F.U.N. Show that started that same week. This was my first F.U.N. Show but that is another story. This token is the oldest mill token from North Carolina known to me.



**MOUNTAIN ISLAND / 1 / MILLS // (BLANK) - RD  
BR 21 (ALL INCUSE)**

Mountain Island Mills got its start around 1848. The owner was Thomas R. Tate of Greensboro, a mill owner that found coal too expensive to power his mill so he moved his equipment to Mountain Island to take advantage of the water power available from the Catawba River. The mill was located roughly where today's Mountain Island Lake Dam is located. The mill and land was bought by Hooper Manufacturing Company in 1885. This was after a rough business period following the Civil War when the plant was closed for several years. The mill was re-named Mountain Island Manufacturing Company on January 19, 1886 and sometime shortly thereafter this token was issued. In March 1910 the Armon Manufacturing Company bought the business and retained ownership until the flood of 1916 destroyed the mill. No other denominations of this token are known and only 3 of this token are known to me.



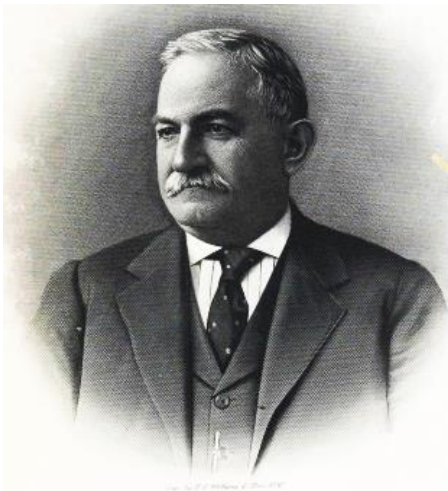
# TOKENS OF THE WHITE OAK TEXTILE COMMUNITY

## Lamar Bland

The founders of White Oak were Moses and Ceasar Cone. The brothers left Baltimore before the turn of the century to buy land in Greensboro, North Carolina. There, partnered with Herman and Emmanuel Sternberger, they established three pioneering mills and communities which would lead the nation in denim, flannel, and corduroy production for half of the next century.

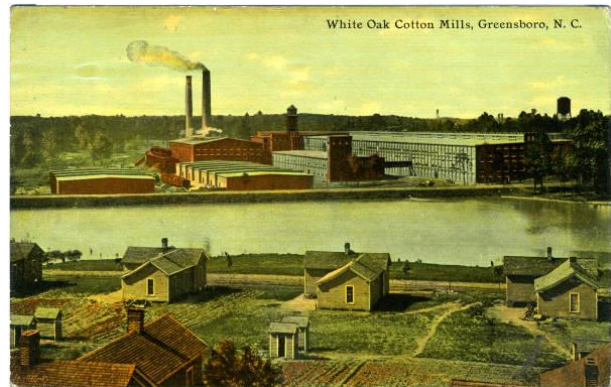


**Moses Cone 1857-1908**



**Ceasar Cone 1859-1917**

The first mill was Proximity, built in 1896, followed quickly by Revolution in 1899, then White Oak in 1905. The White Oak community was the largest; and it grew to include the village of East White Oak where African-Americans lived. Because it was the largest community, White Oak received more amenities than Proximity and Revolution. Like many textile operations in the south, it included housing and a company store. The photographs below show the mill, worker housing, and the village campus which included the store.



**The mill and worker housing**



**White Oak Village/Main Street**

The White Oak campus also contained hair salons for women and men, a shoe shop, a movie theater (The Fairview), a drug store, a hotel, and a bank. One writer described it as a fully functioning “modern shopping center.” IN THE EARLY 19-TEENS! But this was not all. White Oak citizens also had access to a Cone-owned dairy and, through the general store, meat processed from management’s nearby Reedy Fork Ranch.

The following tokens are related to the bank, the dairy, and the company store.



**The Textile Bank / White Oak / Cotton Mills / Greensboro, N. C. / Dime / Bank Check // Good For Credit / - Of - 25¢ / On / First Deposit – R, Br, 18 mm (HOM)**



**Textile / Dairy // Good For / 3 Cents / Upon Return / Of / Bottle – R, Al, 19mm.**

The White Oak store token is as follows (photo not available).

**White Oak / Store No. 2 / White Oak, / N.C. // Good For / 100/ In / Merchandise / Not Transferable – R, Al, 35mm.**

Because Moses Cone died in 1908, Ceasar probably issued these tokens. White Oak Store # 2 has a Dun and Bradstreet listing from 1907 through 1926. The Textile Bank was functioning in 1913. And the dairy, according to an exhibit in the Greensboro Historical Museum, was established in 1915, with milk delivered to worker houses.

Thanks to researcher Bob King for his information about the Textile Dairy and White Oak Store tokens. He indicates that White Oak Drug and White Oak Shoe Shop used tokens as well; those shops, however, had independent ownership. With tokens confirmed from these varied sites in the White Oak community, it seems likely others are yet to be found. White Oak was a particularly large campus.

What about tokens from Proximity and Revolution, founded within the same decade? None have surfaced. A Bernard Cone photograph shows the interior of a store at Proximity. Yet management there said they used “no scrip,” according to Marvin Brown in his book *GREENSBORO: AN ARCHITECTURAL RECORD* (1995).

The Cone brothers reshaped the Greensboro landscape, starting with rail lines they built for their mill sites, and lakes they created to provide water for the mills and their workers. They established Camp Herman for mill children to attend in summers. They provided an early stadium for Greensboro Patriots baseball in 1902. Later Cone generations built a YMCA for blacks in the 1930’s, established Cone Hospital in the 1950’s, and supported the American military in World War I and II with overseas supplies, Christmas mail, and the promise of resumed employment when the soldiers returned.

While the tokens are rarely seen, vestiges of Cone philanthropy are still everywhere visible.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

- The photos of the Cone brothers used above can be accessed on-line at <http://www.textilehistory.org>, where they are credited to *LAMB’S TEXTILE INDUSTRIES OF THE UNITED STATES*, Volume II (1916).
- The same on-line site contains the photo of White Oak Cotton Mills and worker housing. It is part of the U.N.C.-Chapel Hill Postcard Archives.
- The photo of White Oak Village Main Street was made by the Cone brothers’ younger sibling Bernard. It is held in his albums at the Greensboro Historical Museum.

Two other sources useful for mill history or village photographs are Jim Schlosser’s *THE BEAT GOES ON: A CELEBRATION OF GREENSBORO’S CHARACTER AND DIVERSITY* (2008), and Gayle Hipps Fripp’s *IMAGES OF AMERICA: GREENSBORO* (1997).

**REMEMBER THOSE 2014 DUES!**

# LARGE HOARD OF MILL TOKENS DISCOVERED IN GREENVILLE, SC

Tony Chibbaro

A large hoard of tokens was discovered in Greenville this past December. One lucky person was rewarded with an early Christmas present consisting of over 8000 tokens from the F.W. Poe Manufacturing Company. He had been hired to clean out an old commercial building near the Poe Mill village and, while rummaging through the trash stored under the stairway, came across a couple of deteriorated cloth bags. They tore apart as he picked them up and the tokens scattered out across the floor. After retrieving them and seeing that they were not real coins, he gave some to a friend who was helping him, loaded the remainder in a box and placed them in his vehicle.


Later he contacted a friend of his who knew a little about tokens and this person called me. He related the story of their discovery and I gave him some advice to pass along to his friend. I also got the discoverer's phone number and set up a time for a visit to see this trove of tokens. I was told that there were a few of the rare aluminum Poe Mill tokens in the hoard and I was hoping to get one or two for my collection. On the second Saturday in December I met with him at his house. Sure enough he had three of the aluminum tokens – two 10 cent pieces and a one dollar piece. I have owned a nice 10 cent piece for over 20 years, but I had never seen an aluminum one dollar token until then. Unfortunately it was not in the best of condition, but it is rare so I shouldn't fuss about it too much.

I was hoping to see the entire hoard and check it out as to whether there were any "foreign" tokens in the group. (Foreign in this sense were any tokens not from Poe Mill. Often when hoards surface there will be a couple of tokens from some nearby store in the mix.) Unfortunately for me, but a windfall for him, he revealed that he had already sold just about every one that he had found for a price which exceeded \$1 each! All that were left in his possession were the three aluminum tokens and about 2 dozen of the brass ones that were on the table in front of me. I was very surprised that anyone would pay so much for such a large group of tokens and explained to him how very fortunate he was.

About a week later an advertisement appeared in Coin World magazine, placed there by one of its longtime weekly advertisers. The Coin Depot in Greenville, operated by coin wholesaler Kirk Kelly, had purchased the hoard and was now offering them for sale to its customers. The ad appears below.

*Be sure to check page 13 for more great values from The Coin Depot.*

**— A FRESH SELECTION OF SPECIAL VALUES FROM THE COIN DEPOT —**



**DEPRESSION ERA SCRIP**

We recently ran into a mini-hoard of copper scrip from the Great Depression (no, not last year...the 1930s). These coins were privately minted for the F.W. Poe Manufacturing Company (known locally as Poe Mill) of Greenville, South Carolina. These coins were used to pay the cotton mill workers when there was a shortage of cash or when the Mill wanted a captive audience for their own (and often overpriced) commissary stores. Although common during the Depression Era these historical items have nearly disappeared and are not seen today except in museums or private collections. Order early as we are sure to run completely out of these inexpensive pieces of history. They make great historical gifts—especially cherished by anyone who lived through the 1930s. Own a great piece of history for under \$8 bucks! The 5-cent through small \$1 denominations have the same writing front and back; the large \$1 round has a different front and back. Only a few of the uncirculated pieces are available. Circulated pieces occasionally trade on ebay at \$30 to \$40.

	Average	Uncirculated		Average	Uncirculated
\$1.00 Round (Large) .....	\$7.95	\$19.95	\$25 (Irregular) .....	\$8.95	\$19.95
\$1.00 Square (Small) .....	\$8.95	\$19.95	\$10 (Octagonal) .....	\$8.95	\$19.95
\$.50 (Irregular Shape) .....	\$8.95	\$19.95	\$.05 (Gear Shape) .....	\$11.95	\$19.95

**COMPLETE SETS**

	Average	Uncirculated
ALL 6	\$4495	\$9995



I don't know how well Mr. Kelly will do with his ad, but he will have to sell 1000 individual tokens at \$10 each or 200 sets at \$50 per set to get back the \$10,000 that he paid for the hoard. Personally, I don't think that he will be able to do that, as these tokens were not rare before the recent discovery. I have sold somewhere between 100 and 200 of these in the past 20 years, and most, if not all, collectors of South Carolina tokens already have them in their collections.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### WANTED

**WILL PAY JUST ABOUT WHATEVER IT TAKES** to obtain tokens I need for my collection, especially for those from the following South Carolina locations: Angelus, Davis Station, Dunbarton, Kegtown, Meriwether, Plantersville, and White Stone Springs. Tony Chibbaro, PO Box 420, Prosperity, SC 29127, phone: 803-530-3668) or email: [chibbaro@mindspring.com](mailto:chibbaro@mindspring.com).

**IF YOU SELL A TOKEN TO ME YOU WILL RECEIVE YOUR CHOICE OF A CHECK OR POSTAL MONEY ORDER** and a self-addressed, stamped envelope. All you need to do is insert token into enclosed holder, tape envelop & toss it into the mail. Robert S. King, 709 Cardinal Dr, Brevard, NC 28712 [tokenaddict@citcom.net](mailto:tokenaddict@citcom.net) 828-883-8028

**TOP DOLLAR PAID FOR "INGLE SYSTEM" TOKENS.** Robert S. King, 709 Cardinal Dr. Brevard, NC 28712 [tokenaddict@citcom.net](mailto:tokenaddict@citcom.net) 828-883-8028

## REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR 2014 DUES!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE CLEMMONS MEETING, MAY 17

**CARTS Membership and Dues:** Application for membership in CARTS is invited from anyone interested in the exonomia of the two Carolinas. Annual dues are \$10.00 and should be mailed to the treasurer, Bob King. Checks should be made payable to CARTS.

**CARTSNEWS:** CARTSNEWS, the newsletter of CARTS, is published four times per year in February, May, August, and November.

**Advertising:** Each member is encouraged to submit one classified ad per issue. These ads are free to members. Free ads should be no more than 50 words in length. No ads will be run continuously; a new ad must be submitted for each issue. The editor reserves the right to edit ads for length and any ad thought not to be in the best interest of the hobby will be rejected.

Paid advertising is also solicited. The rate per issue for paid ads is as follows. One quarter page \$3.00, one half page \$6.00, and full page \$11.00. Any paid advertising, along with payment, should be sent to the editor by the fifteenth of that month before the month of issue. So, for example, advertising copy for the May issue should be received by the editor by April 15. Camera ready copy will be accepted, but the editor will also compose ads from your rough copy if you desire. As with free advertising the editor may reject any ad thought not in the best interest of CARTS or the hobby at large.